



NEWS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Los Angeles Field Office
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Former San Gabriel Valley Tax Preparer Pleads Guilty to Filing False Returns

Los Angeles – A tax preparer with two former San Gabriel Valley based tax preparation businesses pleaded guilty today to a scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service through the preparation and filing of bogus tax returns claiming inflated income tax refunds based on false deductions.

Calvin Tyrone Ridgill, 60, of Whittier, a tax preparer at Hernandez and Associates and later CT Professional Services, both located in Hacienda Heights, pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and assisting in the preparation of a false tax return.

According to the plea agreement filed in the case, during the years 2010, 2011 and 2012, Ridgill prepared federal income tax returns for his clients claiming false or inflated income tax refunds based on false deductions. The false deductions included false losses from the sale of business property, false Schedule E partnership losses, false mortgage interest deductions, or false mortgage points, resulting in the understatement of the tax liability owed to the IRS. The returns were filed with the IRS and resulted in tax losses of more than \$400,000.

The single count to which Ridgill pleaded guilty to today relates to the 2011 federal income tax return filed on behalf of a client which included a false Schedule E partnership loss in the amount of \$56,788. The inclusion of this loss amount resulted in the understatement of the client's taxable income, and thus the reported federal income taxes due to the IRS.

As part of the plea agreement, Ridgill has agreed to a binding civil injunction barring him for life from aiding or assisting in the preparation of federal income

tax returns for anyone other than himself and his legal spouse, and barring him from representing individuals before the IRS.

As a result of today's guilty plea, Ridgill faces a statutory maximum sentence of three years in federal prison and a fine of \$250,000 when he is sentenced on July 13, 2015 by United States District Judge Margaret M. Morrow. He may be further ordered to pay restitution of approximately \$357,477.

The investigation and prosecution of Ridgill was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation's Los Angeles Field Office, in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

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